Abstract

Highly pure 2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid is produced by a process suitable for application in commercial production with a high yield and with recirculation of waste liquor. The process comprises the steps of: (a) oxidizing quinoline or 8-hydroxyquinoline in a solvent in the presence of copper (II) ions to precipitate copper (II) salt of 2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid and then separate the precipitates, (b) reacting the separated copper (II) salt with an alkali in a solvent to obtain a solution of an alkali metal salt of 2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid, and (c) reacting the solution of the alkali metal salt with a mineral acid to precipitate 2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid and then separate the precipitates, and is characterized in that (A) part or all of the solution obtained after the precipitated 2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid is separated in step (c) is used as at least part of the solvent in step (a) or (b), or (B) copper or a copper compound is added to the solution obtained after the precipitated 2,3-pyridine-dicarboxylic acid is separated in step (c) to recover the 2,3-pyridinedicarboxylic acid remaining in the solution as its copper (II) salt.